

Winner of Congressional Art Competition Will Receive College Scholarship, Trip to D.C.
February 19, 2009

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, U.S. Representative Charlie Melancon (LA-03) announced the beginning of the 2009 Third Congressional District Art Competition for area high school students in south Louisiana. The winning artwork from the Third District will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol complex for one year along with other winning entries from across the country. The Third District Grand Prize winner will also receive a renewable \$5,000 scholarship to the Savannah College of Art and Design and will be flown to Washington, D.C., to attend an awards ceremony on June 24, 2009.

Last year's winner was Amber Laurent, a recent graduate of Vanderbilt Catholic High School in Houma. Her photograph, entitled "Hidden Beauty," has been proudly displayed since last June in the hallway leading to the U.S. Capitol that thousands of visitors pass through every year.

"The Congressional Art Competition allows us to share the great talent and hope of our youth in south Louisiana with visitors to the U.S. Capitol," said Rep. Melancon. "The artwork created by last year's winner, Amber Laurent of Houma, is an inspiring depiction of the beautiful bayous we in south Louisiana are so fond of. As visitors from around the country view Amber's artwork, they see the natural beauty of Louisiana and better understand our desire to save our coastal wetlands.

Rep. Melancon continued, "While I have truly enjoyed seeing Amber's great work displayed for the past year, I am excited for this year's competition and the inspirational art our students will create. I encourage all high school students to consider submitting a piece of original work."

Rep. Melancon's district staff will host the final judging of the competition on Saturday, April 25, 2009, at his Gonzales Office, located at 1201 S. Purpera Ave. Ste. 601, Gonzales, Louisiana. The judging will occur from 10:30-11:00am, followed by a public viewing and awards presentation from 11:00-1:00pm.

The nationwide art competition, which is voluntarily sponsored by Members of Congress, provides young student artists with an opportunity to showcase their work locally, as well as the chance to be recognized at the national level for their talent and creativity. Each Member of Congress can choose one grand prize winner from his or her district.

The Congressional Arts Competition began in 1982 to give creative students the chance to have their talents recognized nationwide. Since then, more than 650,000 students have participated in the competition and the works of thousands of young American artists have been showcased in a passageway to the Capitol.

For more information, including the student artwork release form and other important

instructions, please [click here.](#)

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